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Gallagher Backs CIA Over Viet

From Our Washington Bureau

Rep. Cornelius Gallagher (D-Bayonne), in defense of the Central Intelligence Agency, yesterday tangled verbally with Sen. Stephen Young (D-Ohio).

Young said at a news conference that he had been told by a CIA member in Viet Nam that the intelligence agency had committed atrocities there to discredit the Communist-Viet Cong.

GALLAGHER, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which is frequently briefed by CIA spokesmen on Viet Nam, indignantly told newsmen later that "It may well be that Young spoke to a Viet Cong disguised as a CIA man."

Young who recently returned from Viet Nam said he was told while there that the CIA disguised persons as Viet Cong and that they committed atrocities, including killing men and raping women. He did not identify his informant by name.

A CIA spokesman, asked for comment, said "As far as our agents having done such things, the statement is absolutely false."

THE NEW JERSEY congressman, who was in Viet Nam as a committee member four months ago, said he also was briefed at that time and no one told him of such activity.

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